

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 568

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUTTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary education institutions

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3129.9 through 3129.15 and R.S. 36:651(BB) and 801.5(C), relative to
3 public postsecondary education institutions; to provide for a comprehensive system
4 of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public education
5 institutions; to provide for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer
6 council and its membership, powers, and duties; to provide for a statewide
7 articulation agreement; to provide for a common core curriculum; to provide relative
8 to the length of degree programs; to provide for the transfer of specified courses and
9 associate degrees; to provide relative to admission of transfer students to four-year
10 colleges and universities; to provide for implementation timelines; to provide for
11 reporting requirements; to provide for program rules; to provide for effectiveness;
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:3129.9 through 3129.15 are hereby enacted to read as follows:
15 §3129.9. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council; creation; purpose;
16 membership; duties and responsibilities
17 A. The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the higher
18 education management boards and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary

1 Education, shall establish a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, hereafter
2 in this Section referred to as the council, that shall report to the commissioner of
3 higher education.

4 B. The council shall consist of members representing each four-year college
5 and university system, the community and technical college system, public
6 elementary and secondary education, and nonpublic education. Council membership
7 shall provide for equitable representation of all education institutions and levels. The
8 commissioner of higher education shall appoint a chair from among the membership.

9 C. The council shall:

10 (1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the seamless articulation and transfer
11 of credits between and among secondary schools, technical colleges, community
12 colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

13 (2) Develop guidelines for interinstitutional agreements between and among
14 public schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and
15 universities to facilitate interaction, articulation, acceleration, and the efficient use
16 of faculty, equipment, and facilities.

17 (3) Develop a statewide articulation and transfer agreement to govern the
18 transfer of credits between and among education institutions at all levels.

19 (4) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum for lower-
20 division course work that will be fully accepted in its entirety and creditable to the
21 baccalaureate degree by all four-year colleges and universities. Such curriculum
22 shall be comprised of specified general education courses and common degree
23 program prerequisites.

24 (5) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and
25 postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability and to facilitate
26 articulation in subject areas.

27 (6) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program areas and
28 course and credit-by-exam equivalencies and establish passing scores and course and
29 credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to accelerated programs such

1 as the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level
2 Examination Program.

3 (7) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems based upon
4 uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and
5 institutional compliance with statewide articulation policies. Data collected shall
6 include:

7 (a) The number of students enrolled in associate degree transfer programs.

8 (b) Each student's rate of progress through transfer programs.

9 (c) The number and percentage of students who complete associate degree
10 transfer programs.

11 (d) The number of students earning associate degrees who transfer to four-
12 year colleges and universities.

13 (e) The number of credits earned, degrees awarded, and time to completion
14 of degree for students who have previously transferred associate degrees.

15 (8) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between
16 transferring students and receiving education institutions regarding the transfer and
17 acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

18 (9) Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer
19 policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who
20 shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

21 §3129.10. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Agreement

22 A. The Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
23 Education shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement that shall govern the
24 articulation and transfer of credit between and among the state's public secondary
25 and postsecondary education institutions.

26 B. The statewide articulation agreement shall, at a minimum:

27 (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree
28 program prerequisites.

1 (2) Guarantee that every associate of arts and associate of science degree
2 graduate of a community college shall be deemed to have met all general education
3 and other core curriculum requirements and shall be granted admission to the upper
4 division of any state public four-year college or university, except to a limited access
5 program or a program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements
6 as approved by the Board of Regents.

7 (3) Provide that associate of arts and associate of science degree graduates
8 who transfer to a four-year college or university shall not be required to take any
9 additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.

10 (4) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical
11 education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course
12 credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.

13 (5) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary education institutions of credits
14 earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced
15 Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.

16 (6) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses.

17 §3129.11. Common core curriculum; general education courses; common
18 prerequisites; other degree requirements

19 A. The Board of Regents shall identify the degree programs offered by
20 public colleges and universities and the postsecondary career and technical education
21 programs offered by community colleges, technical colleges, and city, parish, and
22 other local public school boards.

23 B. The board shall identify those courses that meet general education
24 requirements within each major area of study. All public postsecondary education
25 institutions shall accept such general education courses.

26 C. The board shall identify all courses offered by colleges and universities
27 and accepted for credit toward a degree and identify them as either general education
28 or required as a prerequisite for a degree.

1 D.(1) The board shall identify common degree program prerequisite courses
2 and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary education
3 institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted
4 by all postsecondary institutions, except in cases approved by the Board of Regents.

5 (2) The board shall develop a centralized database containing the list of
6 courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each
7 postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and
8 baccalaureate degree program.

9 E. The postsecondary education management boards shall identify their core
10 curricula. The public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges
11 and universities shall work with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education and public schools and school districts to assure that high school curricula
13 coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for postsecondary study.

14 F. The core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science degree
15 programs shall be approved and adopted by the Board of Regents.

16 G.(1) The Board of Regents shall determine and establish a standard number
17 of credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and shall establish
18 a standard number of credits required to earn associate degree programs for transfer
19 to a four-year college or university.

20 (2) A baccalaureate degree program shall not require more than the number
21 of credits established by the board for degree completion without approval from the
22 board.

23 (3) An associate in arts and an associate in science degree shall require no
24 more than sixty semester hours of college credit, including thirty-six hours of general
25 education coursework.

26 H. The commissioner of higher education shall appoint faculty committees
27 representing community and technical colleges and public high school faculties to
28 recommend criteria, including a standard program length, for each postsecondary

1 career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a technical college or a
2 community college.

3 §3129.12. Student guidance and counseling

4 The Board of Regents shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, web-
5 based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty regarding
6 statewide articulation and transfer policies and requirements.

7 §3129.13. Implementation and funding

8 A. The Board of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide
9 Articulation and Transfer Council not later than August 1, 2009.

10 B. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an
11 organizational meeting not later than September 1, 2009.

12 C. The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted not
13 later than March 1, 2010.

14 D. Full articulation and transfer of the associate of arts and associate of
15 science degrees shall be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year.

16 E. The Board of Regents shall ensure that sufficient funding is made
17 available to implement the provisions of R.S. 17:3129.9 through 3129.15. and may
18 utilize state appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other
19 sources, or funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by
20 the board.

21 §3129.14. Reporting

22 Beginning in 2010, the Board of Regents shall submit a written report to the
23 Senate and House committees on education, not later than January thirty-first and
24 July thirty-first of each year, on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of
25 credit across all education institutions in Louisiana as provided in R.S. 17:3129.9
26 through 3129.15

1 §3129.15. Rules

2 The Board of Regents shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
3 provisions of R.S. 17:3129.9 through 3129.15 in accordance with the Administrative
4 Procedure Act.

5 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(BB) and 801.5(C) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
7 of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
8 Education

9 * * *

10 BB. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (R.S. 17:3129.9) is
11 placed within the Department of Education and shall exercise and perform its
12 powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies
13 transferred in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 36:801.5(C).

14 * * *

15 §801.5. Transfer; Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools; Louisiana Health
16 Works Commission; Nursing Supply and Demand Council; Statewide
17 Articulation and Transfer Council

18 * * *

19 C. The agency placed within the Department of Education by the provisions
20 of R.S. 36:651(BB) shall exercise all powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities
21 provided or authorized for such agency by the constitution and laws, and particularly
22 the provisions of R.S. 17:3129.9 through 3129.15, and shall exercise all such powers,
23 duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner and to the extent so provided or
24 authorized. The agency shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents, and
25 the Board of Regents shall have such powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities
26 relative to the agency as otherwise provided by law. All personnel employed or
27 assigned to administer and implement the powers, duties, functions, and
28 responsibilities of the agency shall be employees of the Board of Regents. Except
29 as otherwise provided by law, the Board of Regents shall perform and administer all

1 functions of the agency which are in the nature of accounting and budget control,
2 procurement and contract management, management and program analysis, data
3 processing, personnel management, and grants management.

4 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
8 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hutter

HB No. 568

Abstract: Provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary education institutions; provides for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and its membership, powers, and duties; provides for a statewide articulation agreement and a common core curriculum; and provides for implementation time lines, reporting requirements, and rules.

Proposed law provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary education institutions.

Requires the postsecondary education management boards, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and city, parish, and other local public school boards jointly to develop and implement articulation and transfer programs and agreements that facilitate and maximize the seamless transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary education institutions and that make the most efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities.

Creates the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, appointed by the commissioner of higher education in consultation with BESE and the postsecondary education management boards, which shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

- (1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the articulation and transfer of credits.
- (2) Develop guidelines for interinstitutional agreements between and among public education institutions.
- (3) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum that shall be comprised of specified general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (4) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability and to facilitate articulation in subject areas.

- (5) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program areas and course and credit-by-exam equivalencies and establish passing scores and course and credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to accelerated programs.
- (6) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with statewide articulation policies. Specifies data to be collected.
- (7) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving education institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.
- (8) Review, at least annually, articulation and transfer policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

Places the council in the Dept. of Education for purposes of the Executive Reorganization Act.

Requires the Bd. of Regents and BESE to enter into a statewide articulation agreement to govern the articulation and transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary education institutions that shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (2) Guarantee that every associate of arts and associate of science degree graduate of a community college shall be deemed to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and shall be granted admission to the upper division of any state public four-year college or university, with certain exceptions.
- (3) Provide that associate of arts and associate of science degree graduates who transfer to a four-year college or university shall not be required to take any additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.
- (4) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.
- (5) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary education institutions of credits earned in accelerated programs.
- (6) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to:

- (1) Identify all degree programs offered by all public secondary and postsecondary education institutions.
- (2) Identify those courses that meet general education requirements within each major area of study. Provides that all public postsecondary education institutions shall accept such general education courses.
- (3) Identify all courses offered by colleges and universities and accepted for credit toward a degree and identify them as either general education or required as a prerequisite for a degree.

- (4) Identify common degree program prerequisite courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary education institutions. Provides that common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted by all postsecondary institutions, with certain exceptions.
- (5) Develop a centralized database containing the list of courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and baccalaureate degree program.

Requires the postsecondary education management boards to identify their core curricula. Further requires public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to work with BESE and public schools and school districts to assure that high school curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for college-level work.

Provides that the core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science degree programs shall be approved and adopted by the Bd. of Regents.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to determine and establish a standard number of credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and establish a standard number of credits required to earn associate degree programs for transfer to a four-year college or university.

Provides that baccalaureate degree programs shall not require more than the number of credits established by the board for degree completion without approval from the board.

Provides that associate in arts and an associate in science degrees shall require no more than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 36 hours of general education course work.

Requires the commissioner of higher education to appoint faculty committees representing community and technical colleges and public high school faculties to recommend criteria, including a standard program length, for each postsecondary career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a technical college or a community college.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and maintain a comprehensive web-based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty regarding statewide articulation.

Provides for implementation time lines as follows:

- (1) The Bd. of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council not later than Aug. 1, 2009.
- (2) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an organizational meeting not later than Sept. 1, 2009.
- (3) The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted not later than March 1, 2010.
- (4) Full articulation and transfer of the associate of arts and associate of science degrees shall be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to ensure that sufficient funding is made available to implement the provisions of proposed law and authorizes the board to utilize state appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other sources, or funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by the board.

Requires the Bd. of Regents, beginning in 2010, to submit a written report to the Senate and House education committees not later than Jan. 31 and July 31 of each year on the status of

statewide articulation and transfer of credits across all education institutions as required by proposed law.

Requires the Bd. of Regents to adopt rules and regulations to implement proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.9-3129.15 and R.S. 36:651(BB) and 801.5(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes proposed law that provides certain guarantees to students with associate degrees who seek to enroll in public postsecondary education institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees and instead adds proposed law as follows:
 - (a) Provides for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and provides for its membership, powers, and duties.
 - (b) Provides for a statewide articulation agreement and transfer of credits among and between public secondary and postsecondary education institutions.
 - (c) Provides for a common core curriculum for public postsecondary education institutions.
 - (d) Provides for implementation time lines, funding, reporting, and rules.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Places the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council in the Dept. of Education for purposes of the Executive Reorganization Act and makes various technical changes.